

The Parentage and Immediate Family of Lucinda Gregson

The ancestry of Lucinda Gregson has largely been shrouded in mystery for many years. This document will attempt to explain who her parents likely are.

The death certificate [1] for Lucinda gives us a number of data points to work from.

- She was born on 17 Feb 1864 in Rochester, Fulton, Indiana
- Her father's surname was Gregson and he was born in South Carolina
- Her mother's surname was Yount and she was born in South Carolina

Additionally, early United States census records for Lucinda include:

- [2] 1870: Rochester, Fulton, Indiana, in the household of Reuben and Amy Carr, 6 years old, born in Indiana, no other persons with the surname of Gregson present
- [3] 1880: Denver, Newaygo, Michigan, in the household of George D. and Mary J. Overly, 16 years old, a servant, born in Indiana, no other persons with the surname of Gregson present

First, consider Lucinda's death certificate. A search for a Gregson-Yount marriage in Indiana yields a union between Martin Gregson and Mary Yount in Oct 1841 in Morgan County, Indiana, that was officiated by a William Gregson [4]. Note that the timeframe for this marriage is appropriate - as long as Mary Yount is young she could still be having children in 1864 when Lucinda would be born. Therefore, this appears to be the marriage record for Lucinda's parents.

Second, let us focus on Mary Overly in the 1880 census. Her death record [5] indicates that she was born in 1856 in Indiana to a Martin Gregson and Jenet. I believe the mother's name Jenet is simply the misspelled or mis-transcribed surname Yount. So, it appears Lucinda is living with her SISTER Mary Gregson Overly in 1880. Mary and Lucinda are only 8 years apart so this is a reasonable conclusion.

A further note on the 1880 census record for Lucinda: she is listed as a servant in the household. But, note that the "household" appears to be a hotel run by the Overly family. I believe that Lucinda was working at the hotel and was lumped in with the other servants rather than being labeled a relation (sister-in-law) of the owner George D. Overly. It is unfortunate that the 1880 census taker did not discover and note this in the record.

In attempting to trace the newlyweds Martin and Mary Gregson, the first record we come to is the 1850 United States census. They appear to be in Morgan County, Indiana in the household of T. M. Paul [6].

- Martin Gregson: 42, born in North Carolina
- Mary: 29, born in North Carolina
- Sarah: 7, born in Indiana (married Daniel Risher on 01 Jun 1866 in Fulton County Indiana; living in Oceana County, Michigan, in 1880)
- William C.: 5, born in Indiana (married Levonna V. Wright on 22 Oct 1882 in Newaygo County, Michigan)
- John: 4, born in Indiana (appears to be in the James Carr household in 1870 census; may have married Mary E. Spain on 26 Oct 1878 in Morgan County, Indiana)
- Julia Ann: 1, born in Indiana (married Martin B. Welt on 03 May 1868 in Fulton Country, Indiana; moved to and died in Drake County, Ohio, on 20 Mar 1872; born 25 Feb 1850)

I believe this is the correct census record for Martin and Mary since it is in Morgan County, Indiana, where they were married, none of the data points conflict with a marriage date in 1841, and the birth places for Martin and Mary are North Carolina. This reasonably matches Lucinda's death certificate that states her parents were born in South Carolina.

Note additionally that there is an 1850 census record for a William Grigston in Rochester, Fulton, Indiana [7]. I believe that he was the person who officiated the marriage of Martin and Mary and I also believe William is Martin's brother because he was born in North Carolina.

- William Grigston: 49, born in North Carolina
- Mary: 44, born in Kentucky
- ...
- George W.: 15, born in Indiana (born 08 Feb 1836, died 02 Sep 1912 in Rochester, married first Catharine Shafer/Shaffer on 18 Nov 1865 in Fulton County, Indiana, married second ? on 09 Mar 1909 in Fulton County, Indiana)
- Catharine: 10, born in Indiana (appears to have married Andrew Morris)
- Andrew J.: 8, born in Indiana (married Bathsheba Wharton)
- Rebecca: 6, born in Indiana (marriage record exists)

Next, we come to an 1860 United States census in Rochester, Fulton, Indiana for a Martin and Mary Gregson household [8].

- Martin Gregson: 40, born in Ohio
- Mary: 37, born in Ohio
- John: 18, born in Indiana (cannot confidently trace)
- Levi: 16, born in Indiana (cannot trace)
- Amos: 13, born in Indiana (might have married a Susan Fultz)
- William: 11, born in Indiana (cannot confidently trace)
- Mary: 9, born in Indiana (cannot confidently trace)
- Francis: 7, born in Indiana (cannot trace)
- Susan: 4, born in Indiana (cannot trace)
- Peter: 1, born in Indiana (cannot trace)

I do NOT believe this is our Martin Gregson and Mary Yount because their ages are different than the 1850 census record, they were born in Ohio and not North Carolina, and the older children do not match the children in the 1850 census. Additionally, I have not been able to certainly trace any of the children listed in this census record in future census records, marriage records, death records, or cemetery records. The family is a very mysterious one.

Therefore, I believe either our Martin and Mary Gregson family were not recorded in the 1860 census and this is a different Martin and Mary Gregson family, or the information in the 1860 census for them is largely fabricated and incorrect.

However, there is a William Gregson household on the same page as the Martin Gregson above. I am absolutely certain that this is the William Grigston from the 1850 census because all of the data for William, Mary, and the older children match perfectly.

- William Gregson: 58, born in North Carolina
- Mary: 55, born in Kentucky
- George: 24, born in Indiana
- Catharine: 20, born in Indiana
- Andrew: 18, born in Indiana
- Rebecca: 16, born in Indiana

I believe locating William Gregson in the 1860 census is important for the following reasons. Lucinda would be born to his brother Martin four years later in 1864. In the 1870 census she would appear in the household of Reuben and Amy Carr [9] who appear to have no relationship to the Gregson family (Amy's maiden name appears to be Morris). But, Reuben Carr is only two pages away from William Gregson in the 1860 census.

I believe that Martin and Mary Gregson died between 1864 and 1870. I believe that William intervened at that point to find homes for their remaining young children. As a pastor (remember he married Martin and Mary in 1841) he would have been in a position to find such homes. Lucinda was apparently placed in Reuben Carr's home. I believe this is plausible because of the close proximity of the Carr and Gregson families in the 1860 census.

Other data points:

- The obituary for a son of William Gregson named George W. Gregson states that George was born in Morgan County, Indiana, on 08 Feb 1836 [10]. This places William in Morgan County before the marriage of Martin and Mary that he officiates 5 years later in 1841.
- The death certificate of a son of Reuben and Amy Carr named Charles L. Carr states that Amy's maiden name is Morris [11]. Since she is not a Gregson, Lucinda's presence in the Carr household in 1870 can unfortunately only be explained by the proximity of the Carr and William Gregson families in 1860.
- The marriage record for George and Mary Overly indicates Mary's maiden name was "Fregson" (likely a transcription error) and that she was born about 1855 in Indiana [12]. This matches the information in her death record very well.
- There is an Amos Gregson (born in North Carolina around 1808-1812) floating around William Gregson in the 1850 and 1860 census records. He is likely a brother or nephew of William and Martin.
- Family information also indicates a "Jim" Gregson was a relative of Lucinda. A man named James Martin Gregson was born on 06 Aug 1883 in Michigan to a William Gregson and Lavonna V. Wright [13]. He died on 16 Dec 1945 in Tucson, Pima, Arizona. William and Lavonna were married on 22 Oct 1882 in Newaygo County, Michigan with William listed as being born in 1847 [14]. This somewhat matches the William C. Gregson in the Martin and Mary Gregson household in the 1850 census. Unfortunately I cannot locate a death certificate for this William to confirm he is a child of Martin. But, sisters Lucinda and Mary are in Newaygo County at the time of this marriage, so William being present there also lends credence to him being related to them.
- William Gregson (b. 1802) m. Mary Myers 26 Jan 1828 Morgan Co.

To summarize, Martin Gregson and Mary Yount are the parents of Lucinda. Lucinda certainly has siblings William and Mary and likely John and Julia as well. Other siblings born between 1850 and 1862 are likely. Martin and (the elder) Mary were born in North Carolina probably in 1808 for Martin and 1821 for Mary. They were married in Oct 1841 in Morgan County, Indiana. Additionally, Martin appears to have brothers named William and Amos.

I believe that Martin Gregson and Mary Yount died between Lucinda's birth and the census record of 1870.

References

- [1] Death records of Muskegon County, Michigan. Death certificate for Lucinda Gregson Covell Sparroe; Book 6, Page 291.
- [2] 1870 United States Census. Fulton County, Indiana, Page 100 B.
- [3] 1880 United States Census. Newaygo County, Michigan, Page 347 A.
- [4] Marriage Records of Morgan County, Indiana. Volume A, Page 542. Located in the Indiana Marriages, 1811-2007 index on familysearch.org.
- [5] Michigan Deaths and Burials, 1800-1995, familysearch.org. Entry for Mary Overley.
- [6] 1850 United States Census. Morgan County, Indiana, Page 49 B.
- [7] 1850 United States Census. Fulton County, Indiana, Page 458 B.
- [8] 1860 United States Census. Fulton County, Indiana, Page 205.
- [9] 1860 United States Census. Fulton County, Indiana, Page 203.
- [10] The Rochester Sentinel, Rochester, Indiana. Obituary for George Gregson, 02 Sep 1912. See his Find-a-Grave entry for a transcription:
<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=66553659>
- [11] Wisconsin Death Records, 1867-1907, familysearch.org, entry for Chas. L. Carr (1854-1899)
- [12] Marriage Records of Newaygo County, Michigan. Entry for George Overly and Mary Fregson (Gregson), 20 Sep 1873.
- [13] Arizona Deaths, 1870-1951, familysearch.org, entry for James Martin Gregson (1883-1945)
- [14] Michigan Marriages, 1822-1995, familysearch.org, entry for Wm. Gregson and Lavona V. Wright, 22 Oct 1882, Newaygo County.